# THE PULPIT

A SUNDAY SERMON

BY THE REV. IRA W. HENDERSON, THE FAMOUS DIVINE.

**Subject: "Profit and Loss."**

Brooklyn, N. Y.—Preaching at the Irving Square Presbyterian Church on the theme, "Profit and Loss," the Rev. I. W. Henderson, pastor, took as his text Mark 8:36. "For what doth it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" He said:

Jesus draws the picture with strength and in a startling manner. What doth it profit a man if, in the end, he shall have gained control over the sum total of the material things in the universe and have forfeited his soul life with God? The question is between that life which consists mainly in having and that which consists in being. The question is whether or no our efforts shall tend to self-aggrandizement or to soul culture. Shall we devote our larger and finer energies to the attainment of possessions which are of use in this world alone or to the enlargement of our spiritual powers? The difference is between getting and growing. The man whose career is given over to getting things is measured as a success according to the material wealth he has acquired. But the man who is a "growing man" is marked by his richness in grace, goodness and godliness.

There is in our time a most commendable spirit abroad in the hearts of our people leading them to seek the amelioration and upliftment of the conditions of life about us. There is an earnest desire among one of the purpose everywhere to make the most out of life. We have small patience with the shirk and are getting to have less with the laissez faire. We read of the possibilities of cheap power in its relation to economic affairs and millions of money flowing from Niagara into electricity and rapid transit. Our brains are appalled at the ignorance of thousands of men here in America and we build schools. We are told that in order to a successful social system the worker must have fair hours and a good wage. The luxuries of yesterday are the necessities, and inexpensive, too, of to-day. Our millionaires have gold sabre for charities and clubs, and men in all grades of society put more money into amusements than ever before. All this is well in its way and place. Social conditions should be bettered and the standard of life raised. But we should waste any of his talents, nor should he give undue attention to any one to the detriment of the others. The latent wealth of the world should be made productive. No man should be sent out into the battle of life mentally unprepared. Each member of this State deserves and should be enabled to acquire sufficient physical endurance to fit him for the fight. The man who fails to receive or to receive a fair wage and decent opportunity for enjoyment and for the culture of other than his "business nature." We cannot have too many charitable institutions to meet real need, nor can we do other than rejoice over the wealth that lies at our command for the uplifting of humanity. The man who sells his mental power to cultivate in himself